(*c*) if there be truth in the allegation will they please take appropriate action:

(*d*) if there be no truth in the allegation will the Government please take appropriate action against the Editor of the paper for attempting to lower the prestige of the Government officials by such publication?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):*

(a) Yes:

(*b* to *d.*) The statement referred to is vague and indefinite and Government are not prepared to undertake an enquiry unless more precise information is supplied to them.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* May I know whether the number of officers contemplated by that article as "high" is not very limited in the State.

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* The difficulty was who is to be classified as a high officer.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Will not the Government have some idea as to the word "high".

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* All gazetted officers are considered to be fairly high officers in the State.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* May I know whether all the gazetted officers are circuiting officers?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Not all of them. But many are circuiting officers.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Is it a fact that the clerks in the subordinate offices are getting lesser T. A. than peons now?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Clerks do not get lesser T.A. than the peons.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Are they not able to draw only smaller T.A.?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Clerks get higher T.A. rates than peons. They get 1½ third class while the peons get only single third class.

Mr. C. V. Iyyu *(Kunnamkulam):* Daily allowance, please?

Mr. P. V. Raphael *(Comptroller of Finance and Accounts):* Re. 1 for clerks in the lowest grades and for peons also.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Do the Government expect the House to place the finger upon their officials?

Mr. President: Order, Order. The Hon'ble Member is referring to an article in a newspaper and if a newspaper brings such a charge against a government officer it seems to me reasonable to expect the author of the article in the newspaper himself to communicate in some way with the Government.

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* Thank you, Sir.

FIREWOOD—PERMISSION TO CUT

46. Mr. K. Kunhirama Menon *(Cheruthuruthi):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) the number of acres of forests permitted to be cut for firewood in the years 1117, 1118 and 1119 respectively;

(*b*) the number of petitions received for permission for cutting firewood in 1117, 1118 and 1119;

(*c*) the names of the above petitioners?

Mr. S. Venkiteswaran *(Conservator of Forests):*

(*a*) No specific area was set apart wholly for the purpose in 1117, but firewood from regeneration areas and plantations were allowed besides small quantities from the beats for *bona fide* requirements.

(*b*) and (*c*) The time and labour that would be involved in gathering the information would not be commensurate with the benefits accruing therefrom.

I may be permitted to supplement the printed answer by adding "In 18 and 19 most of the firewood removed was from Hill Paddy clearance".

Mr. K. Narayana Menon *(Mulakunnathukavu):* May I know whether the "*bona fide* requirements" in (*a*) means *bona fide* requirements of consumption or for sale?

Mr. S. Venkiteswaran *(Conservator of Forests):* Small quantities for domestic purposes.

FIREWOOD—CONTRACTORS ALLOWED TO DEAL IN

47. Mr. K. Kunhirama Menon *(Cheruthuruthi):* Will Government be pleased to state.—

(*a*) number and names of contractors who are permitted to deal in firewood in the years 1117, 1118 and 1119 respectively;

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